

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

September 5, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

California Farm Bureau Federation

Conference Room

2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft Other Stressors Working Group Recommended Conservation Measures by Working Biological Objective
- Summary Table: Draft Other Stressors Working Group Recommended Conservation Measures
- BDCP Effort on Potential Additional Covered Species
- Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum Membership List
- Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum Background Information Flyer

Action Items and Key Decisions

Updates

- Introduction to the California Farm Bureau Federation building, welcome to the new facilities and thanks to the host, the Farm Bureau.
- A report was given regarding the SC August 22 tour of Clarksburg.
- David Ceppos, representing Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum (see associated documents/handouts), reported on the establishment and purpose of the Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum, which included the need for a comprehensive management plan for the Bypass. The effort is being funded by various sources and was started in June 2008. The Forum is interested in closely coordinating and integrating its efforts with BDCP. The Forum expects to have a management strategy by September 2009.
- A suggestion was made that SC members' representatives from HOTT and Habitat Restoration Work Group contact Dave Ceppos to ensure greater coordination between BDCP and the Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum.
- A drought summit was held September 4 [BY WHOM?] and a drought water bank launched (see website <http://www.water.ca.gov/drought/>). There will be a web based seminar (webinar) for buyers and sellers on September 17.
- The Department of Water Resources is working with USFWS on the Giant Garter Snake issues associated with water transfers.
- A tour of upper Yolo Bypass has been arranged for Tuesday September 9. It will leave from the Resources Building.
- USFWS received an extension from Judge Wanger in the OCAP matter until December 15 to issue a biological opinion. USFWS announced that its new Regional Director, Renne Lohofener, will start on October 6 and will start attending BDCP meetings.
- Delta Vision (DV) Blue Ribbon Task Force will be releasing a fourth draft of its strategic plan in the next 10-14 days, with a final draft expected in October. DV has received numerous public comments from around the state.
- A proposed ruling on Critical Habitat for Green Sturgeon is due out next Monday.
- The Truckee River Operating Agreement will be signed tomorrow after 20 plus years in the works.
- An update on POD and the ERP will be coming soon.

Other Stressors Working Group Conservation Measures (CM) Presentation

Paul Cylinder presented conservation measures recommended by the Other Stressors Working Group to the Steering Committee. A summary of the presentation included:

- Purpose and process of the Other Stressors Working Group
 - List of presentations made to the Other Stressors WG
- Description of handouts
 - Summary Table of Other Stressor Conservation Measures
 - Detailed Descriptions of Other Stressor Conservation Measures
 - Summary Table of Other Stressor Objectives
- Status of materials provided
- Discussion of Other Stressors Conservation Measures Categories
 - Nonnative invasive species
 - Toxics contaminants
 - Other water quality issues
 - Hatcheries
 - Harvest
 - Nonproject diversions
 - Commercial/recreational activities
- Types of conservation measures
- Actions needed by Steering Committee
 - Written comments to SAIC by September 19
 - Additional discussions will be held at the September 19 and October 3 SC meetings

SC members discussed several aspects of the proposed conservation measures. Discussion points included:

- significance of ballast water introduction;
- desire for more information on the effectiveness or deficiencies of ballast programs;
- clarification on approach to reducing entrainment at nonproject diversions;
- effectiveness of water aeration programs;
- uncertainties on the impacts of water exports;
- how will water quality regulations be enforced;
- funding programs for irrigated land discharges;
- what happens if a mitigation measure is not effective;
- benefits of dredging;
- consideration of terrestrial species issues in relation to Other Stressors conservation measures;
- allocation of conservation measure funding between the PREs and State/Federal sources;
- need for NEPA/CEQA analysis;
- appropriate metrics to be included in Other Stressors biological goals and objectives;
- potential use of IEP funding for BDCP;
- questions about the efficacy of certain Other Stressors conservation measures to reduce incidental take; and
- need to clarify differences between production and conservation hatcheries.

The Other Stressor WG will meet to further evaluate and screen the menu of potential other stressors conservation measures. Comments on the conservation measures are due by September 19. The Governance WG needs to address the issue of roles and responsibilities of the regulated entities and third parties in the Delta as they relate to cooperatively implementing BDCP conservation measures.

Working Groups and Technical Teams

Conveyance Working Group

Ann Hayden (co-chair) reported on the Fish Facilities TT presentation to the Conveyance WG on recommended design approaches for the new north Delta intake facilities. Comments to the approaches are due by September 18. The next step will be to look at the land side of the facilities. Subgroups have been established to further evaluate operations scenarios to address water quality, X2, and the Hood Bypass. HOTT wants to move ahead with two scenarios.

Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team

Dave Harlow (co-chair) reporting that Habitat Restoration Program TT will present a menu of draft conservation measures for consideration by the SC at the September 19 meeting.

Public Outreach Liaisons Working Group

Karla Nemeth (co-chair) reporting. Secretary Chrisman is meeting with local Delta officials. Starting next week there will be one-on-one briefings with Delta interest groups. The trip to Washington, DC is scheduled for October 9-10. Another visit with congressional members is scheduled for January 2009.

Membership Working Group

Roger Patterson (co-chair) reporting that five entities (Central Delta Water Agency, Delta Wetlands, Friant, North Delta Cares, North Delta Water District) have applied for membership to the SC. Interviews are being scheduled for September 11. Membership requires signing onto the BDCP Planning Agreement.

Science Liaisons Working Group

Wayne Spencer reported telephonically on two upcoming science workshops. (see additional docs/handouts #4). The workshop for terrestrial species (Tier 2 type) will be during the 4th week of September. The independent science advisors will produce a report by the end of October. Five or six advisors will participate. SAIC is collating relevant materials for review. SC members discussed the types of questions that may be posed to the independent science advisors.

Wayne Spencer also discussed the upcoming adaptive management workshop. He is looking at the second or third week in November to coincide with possible completion of the formal DRERIP evaluations.

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Richard Roos-Collins (co-chair) reporting that the Governance WG agrees with the concept of integration and coordination concerning day to day water operations, and is interested in approaches to alternative dispute resolution. The WG will have a report of the WOMT process at their September 19 meeting.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

Gary Bobker (co-chair) reporting that the WG asked for more measurability in biological objectives. They need a better framework. SAIC will bring examples on target species using quantifiable objectives. WG will reconvene September 17.

Public Comment

Melinda Terry of the North Delta Water Authority raised concerns about abandoned and submerged boats and as a result the potential toxics released.

Barbara Byrne of the Planning and Conservation League (PCL) raised concerns that Congress is currently considering a Coast Guard Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2830) which contains (in Title V of the act) a federal ballast water treatment program that is weaker than California's program, and that would, if enacted, phase out (much of) California's current ballast water treatment program. General concern that all components of conservation measures can be done but that it is important to focus on the most crucial components.

Stan Dean representing the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) expressed appreciation on how the Other Stressors document addressed the question of ammonia. He indicated that there is new data on this subject coming soon. He also appreciated the willingness of BDCP to work together with SRCSD. He also suggests that the program should be directed toward engaging Porter-Cologne and TMDLs planning processes.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Jerry Johns (DWR)
John Davis (USBR)
Susan Fry (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Valley Water District)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Karla Nemeth (Zone 7)

Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
Greg Thomas (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Kenny Watkins (California Farm Bureau Federation)
John McCamman (DFG)
Carl Wilcox (DFG)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Russ Strach (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)

On phone

Greg Gartrell (CCWD)
Steve Rothert (American Rivers)
Carl Wilcox (DFG)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Cindy Kao (Santa Clara Valley)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets